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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Daúl Matute (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations

Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and Programme of Action[3] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[4]

Recalling also the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See A/S-22/9 and A/S-22/2/Add.1; to be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-22/__), annex.

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Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[5] and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

Taking note of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region of 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable and also affected by, *inter alia*, their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, social problems, high levels of poverty and the challenges and opportunities of globalization,

Considering also that the Caribbean Sea area, nearly all of which is separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, is characterized by a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, such as the second largest coral reef system in the world, the heavy reliance of most States, countries and territories on their coastal areas and the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals, the number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction, which present a challenge to the effective management of resources, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea area for maritime transportation and, notwithstanding the increase in the number of regulatory measures, the threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and from the release of hazardous and noxious substances, in violation of relevant international rules and standards,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Mindful of the strong interaction and competition among socio-economic activities in the countries of the region for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts made by the Caribbean countries to address, in a more holistic manner, the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development,

Noting the efforts of Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further and seek recognition of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea area to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, *inter alia*, by land-based sources in the Caribbean Sea area,

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[5] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* the further development of the integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, which will include, *inter alia*, environmental, economic, social, legal and institutional elements and will take into account the experience gained, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[6] the Programme of Action adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

3. *Calls upon* the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

4. *Also calls upon* the international community and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant agencies, actively to support efforts to develop further and implement the above-mentioned approach;

5. *Further calls upon* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to increasing their participation in existing mechanisms so as to allow for a timely, effective and coordinated response to natural disasters and for the containment of environmental damage in the Caribbean Sea area in the event of an accident or incident relating to maritime transport;

6. *Invites* all parties concerned to take action, as appropriate, to address land-based sources of marine pollution;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

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[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.